

Singing in the Season

The Singing Sergeants are thrilled to be making music to share with our friends across the globe. We recently returned from our fall tour, which took us down through the southeastern part of our country. One memorable evening found us in Melbourne, Florida, where an unfortunate leak in the ceiling on a stormy night provided comic relief for TSgt Robin Askew. Playing *My Fair Lady's* Eliza Doolittle, she altered the lyric of that famous elocutionary exercise from "The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain" to "The rain in Melbourne stays mainly on the stage." The chuckling audience applauded her keen insight. The Crew Chiefs, our own Glenn Miller vocal quartet, joined us at the end of the first week of our journey. They were returning from a wildly successful trip to Europe with the recreated Glenn Miller AAF Orchestra. They logged many miles jetting from Germany and Belgium to Turkey and Portugal. Speaking the universal language of music, they delighted audiences with their tight harmonies and charismatic charm. Apparently, their only trying moment occurred when somehow MSgt Russell Collieran got himself locked in a tent in Turkey. He eventually broke out and we're glad that he, TSgt David Farwig and SMSgts Richard Pearson and David Nokes are all safely back home.

We're sad to say that SMSgt David Nokes, a bass vocalist in the Singing Sergeants, will be leaving the chorus. SMSgt Nokes has been with us since 1989, following an as-



SMSgt David Nokes during his "swansong" performance with The Singing Sergeants

signment as an arranger at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Over the years, he has applied his arranging artistry to many of the songs we've performed, and his invaluable expertise in jazz song stylings has helped us to really swing. Fortunately, SMSgt Nokes is not going very far. He'll be moving down the hall, where he has accepted a position in the USAF Band Office of Public Affairs. We wish him well in this endeavor.

Congratulations are in order for one of our newest members, TSgt Anne Seaton. She excelled during the third quarter of 1999, winning the designation of Volunteer of the Quarter. Among her volunteer activities, she enjoys singing the National Anthem at Little League Baseball games. We are very proud of her as she sets the standard of excellence!

Brass Biz

With the fall season in full swing, The Ceremonial Brass has stayed very busy with its schedule of funeral performances, retirement ceremonies and patriotic openings. In September, The Brass had the honor of providing musical support for the Operation Allied Force Appreciation Ceremony, held at Andrews Air Force Base. Among the distinguished guests in attendance were Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters and General Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. It was a great opportunity to honor those who served in the successful Kosovo campaign.

On October 10, The Ceremonial Brass was asked to give musical support for the annual White House Garden Tour. The Brass, as well as The Band's country ensemble Silver Wings, were both featured in performances for this event.

Aside from standard duty performances, many of the members of The Brass have been involved with concerts in the Chamber Players series. Look for several Brass members at the November 2 program at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland.

This November, the Singing Sergeants are honored to join the Concert Band as featured performers at the annual Virginia Music Educators Association conference at The Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia. The chorus will also be showcased in a separate performance with our back-up combo. We'll offer a varied program, highlighted by a stirring rendition of that old Virginia favorite, *Shenandoah*.

The holiday season is coming! Have you been enjoying the cold weather and magic in the air as the days approach? We in the Singing Sergeants have just the thing to get you in that holiday spirit. Get your tickets early for our annual holiday spectacular. This year's theme focuses on children of all ages. There's a rumor getting around that Alvin and the Chipmunks will be paying us all a visit. You don't want to miss that! The Concert Band and Singing Sergeants begin our holiday concerts early this year, starting November 30 in Baltimore at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. On December 1, we travel down to Richmond, Virginia's Landmark Theater. The weekend shows will take place at DAR Constitution Hall on December 3, 4 and 5. Check the events page for exact times and dates. Later in the month of December, we will be caroling at some rather prestigious gatherings for the last time this millenium. We hope that the new millenium will be equally as enriching as the one we're now leaving. Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year to you all!

—TSgt Janice Reksten Carl

—TSgt Thomas Rarick